

a year curing and caring for their neighbors who need them.

An example of this dedication is the Correctional Health Care Program created by Baystate Health Systems of Springfield, Massachusetts. The program won the National Hospital Association's prestigious NOVA award, which recognizes hospitals' innovative and collaborative efforts to improve the health care of their communities.

The Correctional Health Care Program is a joint effort by Baystate Health Systems and the Hampden County Correction Center to improve the state of inmate health care. Inmates serve an average of 14 months and then return to the community with whatever disease or problems they had when they entered. Failing to improve this health care, puts the inmates, their families, and the public at risk once they are released.

Baystate and Hampden County saw this public health care opportunity and developed a model which has had amazing results. Recurrence of incarceration at the Hampden County Correctional Center is only 4 percent, dramatically below the national average of 40 percent. Program supporters say this extremely low rate is a direct result of correctional health care programs like this.

The program gives inmates the chance to control their own health, helps them gain an element of self-respect and, in most cases, keeps them from returning to a life of crime in jail. In addition, it helps save public health dollars while fighting the spread of communicable diseases.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Baystate Health Care System and the Hampden County Correctional Facility for this award-winning program.

CONGRATULATIONS ON OPENING OF JUVENILE RESIDENCE

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Here's Help on the grand opening of the Debbie Wasserman-Schultz, Alex Villalobos, and Ron Silver Juvenile Residence.

This facility, named after the Florida State legislators who pushed for its establishment, will help teenagers overcome their difficult struggle with substance abuse.

The ravages of dependence too often destroy the lives of young people. And future leaders are often cast aside or lost under a pile of social service paperwork.

Special thanks go to Miami's Y-100's "Footy," also known as John Kross, for his efforts as CEO of Here's Help. And to Dave Ross, manager of Clear Channel.

Others helped: Florida Governor Jeb Bush, who provided funding to furnish this home and renovate older facilities. Thanks also to Dan Marino and Emilio and Gloria Estefan.

I am heartened to see organizations like Here's Help trying to stem this tide of human suffering with community efforts, especially with the Friday opening of its new juvenile residency facility. I ask my congressional colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Miami Y-100's "Footy" and to Here's Help for the wonderful work they have accomplished and for the lives they have saved in this new juvenile residency hall.

EDUCATION

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we celebrated National Teachers Day and paid tribute to some of our Nation's most important citizens, our teachers. Today, I rise to discuss school construction, an issue which is very important to the teachers in my district.

In my hometown of Las Vegas, Nevada, we have the fastest growing school age population in the United States. We have to build a school a month in order to keep up with the unprecedented growth. We have 1,200 students for every school in southern Nevada. That is twice the national average.

We have 210,000 people in our school district. Too many of these students, as many as 22,000, are being educated in trailers, being educated in portables. This is not an appropriate place for our students to be educated in. It is not an appropriate environment for our teachers to teach in.

The teachers in my district need school construction so that they can teach smaller classes and help their students learn better. I urge my colleagues to pass fair, common sense legislation that will help our teachers and benefit all of America's students. Let us pass school construction.

WHISTLEBLOWERS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, why does the media seem to like some whistleblowers and dislike others? I will mention three names, three of the most famous whistleblowers from recent history.

In 1974, Karen Silkwood blew the whistle on the Cimarron Nuclear Facility in Oklahoma, claiming unsafe practices. Karen Silkwood died in a car accident that November while on her way to meet with a New York Times reporter. They say her death was not an accident and that documents she had in the car with her disappeared from the scene of the crash.

In 1995, Dr. Jeffrey Wigand broke with a big tobacco company to criticize that industry's practices. In a famous

episode, his interview with 60 Minutes was taken off the air because of pressure from tobacco company lawyers.

Karen Silkwood and Jeffrey Wigand have both been lionized by Hollywood in movies starring Meryl Streep and Russell Crowe. Both names are synonymous in the media with persons who have been punished for telling the truth.

How about the third whistleblower? Linda Tripp blew the whistle on the most powerful person in America. She told the truth, a truth we might never have known had she not spoken up. And, yet, instead of a movie contract, Ms. Tripp faces the possibility of being the only player in the scandal to be convicted of a crime.

How is that for American justice?

CHINA

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, something does not add up. China is taking \$80 billion a year out of our economy now in trade surpluses, and reports say that China is buying tanks, planes, submarines and missiles with our cash. There are also reports that further say, my colleagues, that with our cash they are pointing their missiles, that we bought, at America.

And after all this, if that is not enough to bust your balsam, Presidents Ford and Carter endorsed President Clinton's plan to grant China Most Favored Nation trade status, now called normal. Normal, my two pairs.

Beam me up, my colleagues. Ford, Carter and Clinton will not get it until there is a Chinese missile shoved right up their assets.

I yield back whatever they are smoking at their press conferences.

OPENING DOORS TO THE PEOPLE OF CHINA

(Mr. LINDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, we have an opportunity to encourage change in China. PNTR for China will provide the Chinese people with access to western influence and ideas by forcing China to open their society to bring about positive economic and social changes.

George W. Bush recently commented on Ronald Reagan's "forward strategy for freedom." The Reagan adage, as espoused by the Texas governor, is that "the case for trade is not just monetary, but moral. Economic freedom creates habits of liberty. And habits of liberty guarantee expectations of democracy. There are no guarantees, but there are good examples from Chile to Taiwan. Trade freely with China and time is on our side."

I also agree with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who predicts that